

**REMARKS**

The Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the present application in view of the foregoing amendments and in view of the reasons that follow:

**I. Status of Claims**

Claims 4-12, and 16-20 are now pending and subject to examination on the merits. Claims 14 and 15 have been cancelled. The Applicants reserve the right to pursue the subject matter of the canceled claims in one or more continuing applications. Claims 4, 6, 19, and 20 have been amended. Support for the amendments can be found on for example page 11, lines 3-8; page 12, lines 20-23; and page 15, lines 16-20, of the specification as originally filed.

**II. Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) & 103(a)**

Claims 4-8, 10-12, and 16-20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by or, alternatively, under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as obvious over Heine (US 4,403,064). Heine describes that a reactive resin comprising a novolak resin, optionally a polyhydroxyl compound, and a polyisocyanate is in the melt or in solution in an inert organic solvent, and the reactive resin is partly hardened by heating to a temperature of 120 - 220°C with evaporation of the solvent used, if any (refer to claim 6). In general, the term “melt” means to become liquid as a result of heating. Also, the term “in solution” generally means the process of dissolving a solid in a liquid. Accordingly, the Applicants respectfully submit that Heine fails to teach or suggest that an isocyanate to be used for a reactive resin is liquid at room temperature.

Additionally, according to the present invention, no solvent is used for preparing a matrix resin because a polyol can be easily mixed with and dissolved in an isocyanate that is liquid at room temperature. Use of a solvent adversely affects the formability characteristics (e.g., voids) of fiber reinforced plastics because it is necessary to evaporate the solvent during the forming step of a fiber reinforced plastic. Furthermore, according to the present invention, a matrix resin is prepared at room temperature without heating because an isocyanate to be used is liquid at room temperature. When a matrix resin is heated to be melted as described in Heine, the matrix resin can be easily reacted and cured, thus shortening

the pot life of the matrix resin. Therefore, the Applicants respectfully submit that the claimed invention is not anticipated by or obvious over Heine.

**III. Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 112 second paragraph**

Claims 14 and 15 were rejected under 37 CFR 1.75(v), as being of improper dependent form. Claims 14 and 15 have been canceled in this amendment, and thus the Examiner's rejections are now moot.

The Applicants believe the present application is now in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration of the application as amended is respectfully requested.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is felt that a telephone interview would advance the prosecution of the present application.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required regarding this application under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16-1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. Should no proper payment be enclosed herewith, as by a check or credit card payment form being in the wrong amount, unsigned, post-dated, otherwise improper or informal or even entirely missing, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the unpaid amount to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. If any extensions of time are needed for timely acceptance of papers submitted herewith, the Applicants hereby petition for such extension under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 and authorizes payment of any such extensions fees to Deposit Account No. 19-0741.

Respectfully submitted,

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By 

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